

Message Text

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STATE FOR EUR/P (SEIDNER)

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR ITALIAN TV JOURNALISTS PIERO
DORFLES AND RENATO PARASCANDOLO

1. PIERO DORFLES AND RENATO PARASCANDOLO, JOURNALISTS FROM THE
SOCIALIST-INFLUENCED SECOND CHANNEL OF ITALIAN TELEVISION CORPORA-
TION (RAI) WILL VISIT NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, JANUARY 19-31, IN
ATTEMPT GATHER BACKGROUND ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN US POSITION
TOWARD PCI AND EUROCOMMUNISM. THE RAI TEAM, THROUGH CONTACTS WITH
AMERICAN NEWSMEN, HOPES TO TRACE SOURCE OF "LEAK" TO NEW YORK TIMES
WHICH RESULTED IN JANUARY 7 RICHARD BURT STORY ON ALLEGED US
PREOCCUPATION WITH ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS AND POSSIBILITY OF PCI
ENTRY INTO GOVERNMENT AREA. AIM IS TO PREPARE REPORTAGE ON WHAT
THESE SOCIALIST JOURNALISTS FEEL MUST HAVE BEEN SPLIT WITHIN
CARTER ADMINISTRATION THAT LED TO LEAK AND EVENTUALLY TO ISSUANCE
OF JANUARY 12 STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON EUROCOMMUNISM. AS
INDICATED, DORFLES AND PARASCANDOLO WILL PURSUE THEIR THESIS
PRIMARILY THROUGH CONTACTS IN AMERICAN PRESS. THEY HAVE ALSO ASKED,
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PAGE 02 ROME 00992 180101Z

HOWEVER, TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH STATE DEPARTMENT AND PENTAGON
EXPERTS AND WILL CONTACT WASHINGTON PRESS CENTER FOR ASSISTANCE
IN MAKING THESE APPOINTMENTS.

2. WHILE IT IS CLEARLY NOT IN US INTEREST ENCOURAGE SPECULA-
TION ABOUT SUPPOSED DIFFERENCES WITHIN ADMINISTRATION ON THIS
ISSUE, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF ITALIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION DORFLES

AND PARASCANDOLO ENTITLED AT LEAST TO COURTEOUS TREATMENT AND SOME RESPONSIVENESS ON OUR PART. BRIEFINGS SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR ATTEMPT TO REDIRECT THEM AWAY FROM THEIR EVIDENT PRECONCEPTIONS. RECOMMEND MEETING BE ARRANGED WITH MIDDLE-LEVEL STATE AND DOD OFFICERS.

3. EMBASSY HAS HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH DORFLES AND PARASCANDOLO. GIVEN THEIR ITALIAN SOCIALIST PERSPECTIVE, THEY ARE SOMETIMES IN DISAGREEMENT WITH US POLICY, ALTHOUGH, TYPICALLY, THEY ALSO SEEM TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL FOR THE UNITED STATES. THEY HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES IN THE PAST TO BE RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISTS AND CAN BE TRUSTED TO OBSERVE PRESS GROUND RULES. DORFLES SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH; PARASCANDOLO DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN INTERPRETER AT ANY INTERVIEW. SHIRLEY

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